We claim:

1   1.   A method for compiling health information, performed by a computer-

2   controlled apparatus, the method comprising:

3   establishing a database for storing a plurality of health statuses of a plurality of users,

4   wherein the database is centrally-accessible;

5   receiving, from a user, data corresponding to a health statistic of the user, the data

6   generated by a health monitoring device;

7   determining a health status of the user from the health statistic;

8   storing the health status in the database; and

9   updating a population statistic based on the health status and the plurality of health

10   statuses.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the database is accessible from the Internet.

3.   The method of claim 1, wherein the health statistic comprises cardiovascular data.

4.   The method of claim 2, wherein the cardiovascular data corresponds to a blood pressure

2   of the user.

1   5.   The method of claim 1, wherein the health monitoring device comprises an electret

2   transducer.

1   6.   The method of claim 5, wherein the data comprises acoustic data from the

2   electret transducer, the acoustic data including at least one waveform.

1   7.   The method of claim 6, wherein the analyzing step further comprises:

2   measuring at least one of a shape of the waveform, a slope of the waveform, and an area
3   under the waveform;
4   determining a cardiovascular age factor of the user based on the measuring step; and
5   storing the cardiovascular age factor in the database as the health status.

1   8.   The method of claim 7, further comprising:
2   providing the cardiovascular age factor to at least one of the user and a second user.

1   9.   The method of claim 1, wherein the receiving step further comprises:
2   receiving, from the user, a request to store the data;
3   receiving a financial account identifier corresponding to a financial account; and
4   charging a fee against the financial account in response to the request.

1   10.   The method of claim 1, wherein the receiving step further comprises:
2   receiving user identification data corresponding to the user including at least one of: a
3   name, an address, a login name, a password, a health care provider, a health insurance provider, a
4   time that the first data was generated, and a financial account identifier corresponding to a
5   financial account; and
6   receiving user medical data corresponding to the user including at least one of: an age, a
7   height, a weight, an activity level, an ethnic group, a medical history, and a family medical history.

1   11.   The method of claim 10, wherein the storing step further comprises:
2   storing the user identification data and user medical data in the database.

1   12.   The method of claim 10, wherein the analyzing step further comprises:
2   determining a cardiovascular age factor of the user based on the data and at least a portion
3   of the user medical data; and

4   storing the cardiovascular age factor in the database.

1   13.   The method of claim 12, further comprising:

2   providing the cardiovascular age factor to at least one of the user and a second user.

1   14.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2   receiving, from a second user, a request for the health status; and

3   providing the health status to the second user.

1   15.   The method of claim 14, wherein the providing step further comprises:

2   receiving, from the second user, a financial account identifier corresponding a financial

3   account; and

4   charging a fee to the financial account in response to the request.

1   16.   The method of claim 14, wherein the health status is provided and an identity of the

2   first user is withheld.

1   17.   The method of claim 14, further comprising:

2   determining a plurality of population health statistics from the plurality of health statuses,

3   including the first health status.

1   18.   The method of claim 17, further comprising:

2   receiving, from a second user, a request for at least a portion of the population health

3   statistics; and

4   providing the requested portion of population health statistics to the second user.

1   19.   The method of claim 18, wherein the providing step further comprises:

2   receiving a financial account identifier corresponding to a financial account; and

3   charging a fee against the financial account, in response to the request.

20.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2   receiving, from a second user, second data corresponding to a health statistic of the

3 second user.

1   21.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2   receiving, from the user, second data corresponding to the health statistic of the user at a

3 separate time;

4   analyzing the second data to generate a second health statistic of the user; and

5   storing the second health statistic of the user.

22.   A computer-readable medium encoded with processing instructions for directing a

2 processor to perform a method for compiling health information, the method comprising:

3   establishing a database for storing a plurality of health statuses of a plurality of users,

4 wherein the database is centrally-accessible;

5   receiving, from a user, data corresponding to a health statistic of the user, the data

6 generated by a health monitoring device;

7   determining a health status of the user from the health statistic;

8   storing the health status in the database; and

9   updating a population statistic based on the health status and the plurality of health

10 statuses.

1   23.   An apparatus for compiling health information, comprising:

2   a processor; and

3   a memory operatively connected to the processor for storing processing instructions

4   directing the processor to:

5   establish a database for storing a plurality of health statuses of a plurality of users, wherein

6   the database is centrally-accessible;

7   receive, from a user, data corresponding to a health statistic of the user, the data generated

8   by a health monitoring device;

9   determine a health status of the user from the health statistic;

10   store the health status in the database; and

11   update a population statistic based on the health status and the plurality of health statuses.

1   24.   An apparatus for compiling health information comprising:

2   means for establishing a database for storing a plurality of health statuses of a plurality of

3   users, wherein the database is centrally-accessible;

4   means for receiving, from a user, data corresponding to a health statistic of the user, the

5   data generated by a health monitoring device;

6   means for determining a health status of the user from the health statistic;

7   means for storing the health status in the database; and

8   means for updating a population statistic based on the health status and the plurality of

9   health statuses.

1   25.   A method, performed by a computer-controlled apparatus, for submitting acoustical

2   cardiovascular data to a central database, the method comprising:

3   receiving, from a user, a request to detect a cardiovascular signal of the user;

4   initializing a cardiovascular monitoring device connected to a computer in response to the

5   request;

6   measuring the cardiovascular signal during a startup routine performed by the computer;

7   receiving, at the computer, at least a portion of the detected cardiovascular signal of the

8   user; and

9   transmitting data based on the received cardiovascular signal to a central database for

10   storage in a record corresponding to the user.

1   26.   The method of claim 25, wherein the step of receiving a request further comprises:

2   receiving, from the user, user identification data corresponding to the user including at

3   least one of: a name, an address, a login name, a password, a health care provider, a health

4   insurance provider, a time that the request was generated, and a financial account identifier

5   corresponding to a financial account;

6   receiving user medical data corresponding to the user including at least one of: an age, a

7   height, a weight, an activity level, an ethnic group, a medical history, and a family medical history;

8   and wherein the transmitting step further comprises:

9   transmitting at least a portion of one of the user identification data and the user medical

10   data to the central database.

1   27.   The method of claim 25, wherein the cardiovascular monitoring device comprises an

2   electret transducer.

1   28.   The method of claim 25, wherein the cardiovascular signal is an acoustic signal, the

2   method further comprising:

3   analyzing a waveform of the acoustic signal to determine at least one of a shape of the

4   waveform, a slope of the waveform, and an area under the waveform; and

5   determining a cardiovascular age factor of the user based on the measuring step; and

6   wherein the transmitting step further comprises:

7   transmitting the cardiovascular age factor to the central database.

1   29.   The method of claim 25, wherein the transmitting step further comprises:

2   transmitting the data to the central database through one of a modem connection and the

3   Internet.

1   30.   An apparatus for submitting acoustical cardiovascular data to a central database,

2   comprising:

3   means for receiving, from a user, a request to detect a cardiovascular signal of the user;

4   means for initializing a cardiovascular monitoring device connected to a computer in

5   response to the request;

6   means for measuring the cardiovascular signal during a startup routine performed by the

7   computer;

8   means for receiving, at the computer, at least a portion of the detected cardiovascular

9   signal of the user; and

10   means for transmitting data based on the received cardiovascular signal to a central

11   database for storage in a record corresponding to the user.

1   31.   An apparatus, for submitting acoustical cardiovascular data to a central database,

2   comprising:

3   a processor; and

4   a memory operatively connected to the processor for storing processing instructions

5   directing the processor to:

6   receive, from a user, a request to detect a cardiovascular signal of the user;

7   initialize a cardiovascular monitoring device connected to a computer in response

8   to the request;

9   measure the cardiovascular signal during a startup routine performed by the

10   computer;

11   receive, at the computer, at least a portion of the detected cardiovascular signal of

12   the user; and

13   transmit data based on the received cardiovascular signal to a central database for

14   storage in a record corresponding to the user.